

ST. MARY CATHOLIC CHURCH

Today's Readings: Acts 8:5-8, 14-17/1 Peter 3:15-18/John 14:15-21

GOSPEL GLIMPSES A better view

Sometimes it's nice to be part of a big, safe group. It's comforting to feel securely surrounded whether in business, society or at home. But while coziness is appealing, the trouble with groups is they get a little crowded. You can get pushed to the back, shoved aside, herded along. How do you know you're headed in the right direction if you only see as far as the person in front of you? Nestled at the back of the comforting pack, we can even forget to look, relying on others to see for us.

In the Christian life as well, where you stand defines what you see. In the world's cozy comfort, you can't see much. But when you step out and declare your belief, sight becomes sharper. You become part of those who see Jesus clearly. Just as Jesus told the disciples, "The world will not see me but you will see me." It's a promise we can count on, if we are willing to be "exposed" as Christians. Look around your faith life today. Are you stuck in the back of the crowd, lulled into a lack of vision? Or can you see Jesus straight ahead, leading you into a better view and a better life?

Next Sunday's Readings: Ascension of the Lord: Acts 1:1-11/Ephesians 1:17-23/Matthew 28:16-20

Congratulations to the following second grade parishioners who are receiving First Eucharist!



Kaylee Blunt
Cailin Hamet
Nicole Keller
Drew Klausing
Jacob McGuire
Delaney Monnin
Kyle Nicely
Noah Olivo
Britta Salinas
Connor Stanfield
Britney Steyer
Livia Tolek

The Annual Mother/Daughter Banquet will be Saturday, May 10th after the 4:30 Mass. Tickets will be available this weekend. The price for adults is \$7 and \$4.50 for students K-6. Men are needed to help serve the dinner in the School Hall. To volunteer or if you have any questions call Darryl Mathewson at 782-9595 or 784-4224 .

Congratulations Jason Kahle! On Saturday, April 26th, Jason Kahle is being ordained to the diaconate. Jason along with his classmates from Mount St. Mary Seminary are taking another important step on their journey toward the priesthood. Jason's presence with us back in the summer of 2005 continues to be a source of joy for him, for me personally, and for many of us here at St. Mary. Jason will be with us next weekend, May 4th, assisting and preaching at the 9:30 Mass with a reception for him afterward. He plans to stick around to help out at the 11:30 Mass, and celebrate with our high school seniors. Your presence at the 9:30 Mass or at the reception in the Ministry Center following the mass would be a great sign of support for Jason and a great way of encouraging vocations.

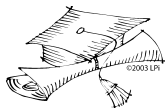
SVDP Clothing Truck: One way you can help the Saint Vincent de Paul Society during the month of May is to donate your old clothes to the third annual clothing drive here at St. Mary Church. A truck will be in our parking lot on the weekend of May 16, 17 and 18. Please put your old, clean and useable clothes in tied plastic bags and bring them to the parking lot. The truck will leave for Toledo after the 11:30 Mass on Sunday. The clothes are then sold through the store or donated to someone in need. The profit of the sales is in turn given in other ways to help the poor of our diocese.

In Loving Memory: Please keep in your prayers Eric Flory & Joan Johnston and their families and friends. May they know the peace of God's love.

Director of Music and Worship Employment:

St. Mary Catholic Church, Defiance, Ohio, a welcoming community of worship and service, dedicated to the faith formation of all it's members, seeks a Director of Music and Worship. As a member of Pastoral staff, the applicant must desire to work in a model of collaborative leadership and provide direction of an active and well formed parish liturgical ministry commission. The applicant must be self-motivated, flexible, knowledgeable of Catholic Liturgy, skilled in organ and keyboard accompaniment and able to provide direction to choirs, cantors, musicians and liturgical ministry teams. Salary competitive and commensurate with education/experience. Position open beginning July 1, 2008. Ministry Description and Responsibilities available on request. Send Resume and three references to:

Rev. Timothy M. Kummerer
Address: 715 Jefferson Ave., Defiance, OH 43512
Phone: 419-782-2776
Fax: 419-782-1958
email: tmkstmary@defnet.com
Web Page: www.stmarydefiance.org



Graduation Mass will be Sunday, May 4th at the 11:30 am Youth Mass. Please join the St. Mary community in celebrating. Seniors are invited to

attend and wear cap and gown. Please meet in the back of the church and process in with Fr. Tim. A reception will be held in the Parish Ministry Center immediately following Mass.

Adult Altar Attendant Training: We will soon be conducting altar attendant training for any adults who would like to serve in the ministry of altar attendant. Adults who feel called to this ministry please call the parish office at 419-782-2776.

In the Gospel today, Jesus says to us: "If you love me, you will keep my commandments... Whoever loves me will be loved by my Father and I will love him and reveal myself to him.

By your gift to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul you will reveal the love of the Father to your suffering brothers and sisters.

Y.E.S. (Youth Elect Service) Incoming freshman to outgoing seniors are invited to participate in this service-oriented retreat. June 13th to 15th beginning at 6:00 pm. and ending with Mass at St. Mary and dinner in the Ministry Center. Join us for an amazing experience. Contact Pam Barnett at 782-4608 for information or questions.

Y.E.S. Project Needs Your Help! If you are thinking of cleaning out your barn, garage, or basement or maybe downsizing and you have a surplus of tools or building supplies, the YES team can use them. We can use yard tools, painting supplies, nails, screws, hand tools, cords, tool boxes, building materials, tarps, bed sheets, good ladders, etc... For pick up please call 782-6455 and leave a message. Thank you!

Postal Service Food Drive: The National Association of Letter Carriers, in conjunction with the U.S. Postal Service, the AFL-CIO, and the United Way, will be collecting non-perishable food items on Saturday, May 10, 2008 for distribution to food banks in the Defiance community. Please place a food donation by your mailbox on Saturday, May 10. Your letter carrier will pick it up and deliver it to the food bank. If you are a Post Office Box Holder, please bring your donation to the Post Office lobby and place it in the receptacle provided. Help us help our community. Thank you for your support.

All women of St. Mary Parish are invited to:

Church Women United
May Friendship Day
Friday, May 2
First Presbyterian Church, Host
501 Washington
Church of the Brethren, Co-host

Registration is at 9:30 am. Brunch will be \$5 at 10:00 am. Reservations are needed by Monday, April 28th. Call Jean Lightle-Jackman at 419-784-4714 or Anne Steyer at 419-784-0564. There will be several speakers telling about their experiences on recent Mission Trips.

We would like to say thank you to Leever Glass for advertising in our church bulletin which is at no cost to us. We ask that you patronize them and give them your support!



SCHOOL NEWS

Happy mid-term week! At the end of this week we will be halfway through the fourth quarter. As the students continue their studies, they also will be having many opportunities to enrich their learning experiences.

On Tuesday, grades 1-6 will be heading to The Bank. This is the annual "Teach Children to Save Day." It was created by the American Bankers Association to bring a clear and thorough understanding of the basic concepts of how to save money and why it is important. The students will tour the bank and enjoy activities that focus on saving money.

On Wednesday, the fourth grade will be taking a trip to the Defiance Public Library. The students will receive instruction on use of library materials and reference services. They will also be introduced to the technological services available and shown how these services can help them in their studies. And, of course, getting and using a library card will be encouraged.

May 1 is National Day of Prayer and we will join together with our neighbors from St. John Lutheran for an ecumenical prayer service.

On Friday, May 2, we will have a mini-carnival to raise money for Cystic Fibrosis. Mrs. Mack and Mrs. Rohn are planning the event. We will be honoring Mackenzie Guilford-sixth grader, enjoying ourselves, and raising money for a good cause.

Mrs. Klein's kindergarten class decided to "Fly into Spring" by making kites, butterflies and bumblebees. All of these colorful decorations can be seen as you ascend the stairs at St. John Campus.

Can you believe that the PreK all day class is making books during computer class?

All of the students are busy practicing for the Spring Concert under the direction of Mrs. Boyd. Mark your calendar now- Thursday, May 22, 6:00 pm at St. John's.

Enjoy these last days of April! Miss Sandy

Defiance Catholic School Geranium Sale: The annual geranium sale, sponsored by the DCS Boosters, is underway. Cost is \$3. Pickup is Saturday, May 3, from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm. Contact any DCS family or either school campus to place your order.

EN THEOS - Enthusiasm for the Faith

What is the Ascension? Why has its celebration shifted from Thursday to the following Sunday in most US dioceses?

The feast of the Ascension, forty days after Easter, has traditionally been celebrated on Ascension Thursday. Since many people find it difficult to get to Mass on a workday, the feast has been moved to the following Sunday in most US dioceses.

The first reading from Acts and the third reading from Luke's Gospel have their source in Luke, the author of both the Gospel and the Acts of the Apostles. Both readings narrate an account of the Ascension. Luke's Gospel account ends by presenting Jesus' ascension as closure to his earthly ministry. Jesus will no longer be physically present to his followers. They are to wait for empowerment from God before continuing Jesus' mission.

Luke begins Acts by retelling Jesus' ascension. Here, the Ascension takes place forty days after Easter, a time during which the Risen Christ has continued to instruct his followers. In Acts, the Ascension is understood not as the end of Jesus' ministry, but rather as the beginning of the disciples' ministry. Jesus must depart so his disciples can take full ownership of Jesus' ministry.

That ownership will be sealed with the gift of the Spirit that God will send as soon as Jesus returns to the Father. The Spirit manifests the new form of Jesus' presence with his followers. Empowered by that presence, they will be strengthened and guided to carry on Jesus' ministry.

Reflect on how you experience Jesus' presence in your life.

Defiance Catholic School

Benefit Calendar Winners March 2008

Kari Hart \$100, Michael Burkhart, Jason & Jessica Fortman, Carol Shafer, Becky Calvo, Stuart Detter, Trudy Meyer, Susan Bacon, Jennifer Hufford, Kirk Jones, Colleen Phillips, Pat Rettig, David & Chris Batt, Sandy Stanfield, Dan Light, Peg Coressel, Sara Huddle, Rita Layne, Joyce & G. Stephansky, Tiffany Jack, Caylon Knox, Carolyn Schira, Robert & Doris Maag, Angela Gineman, Julie Hoellrich, Dan Light, Jeff Niese, Tom Mealer, Little Italy, Raul Sanchez, and Jose Arreguin.

Parish Finances - Stewardship of Treasure

Last Week You Gave.....	\$9,811.50
Need Weekly	\$10,885.00
Below Budget.....	(\$1,073.50)
Contributions to Date	\$476,648.23
\$10,885 x 43 Weeks	\$468,055.00
Year to Date <i>Above</i> Budget	\$8,593.23

Our Lady of Consolation Chapter of “Magnificat” in Lima, Ohio will hold their next breakfast meeting, May 17th at the Old Barn Out Back, 3175 West Elm Street, Lima, Ohio, 9:30 am to 12:30 pm. Speaker is Annie Ruen of Delphos St. John Parish. Annie is a 21 year cancer survivor and has a powerful witness of God’s merciful healing, and is an advocate of the sainthood of Mother Aloysia, the foundress of the Sisters of Notre Dame of Coesfield, Germany. Reservation deadline is May 15th. Mail checks to Judy Brennan, 5498 River Ridge Street, Elida, Ohio 45807. Cost is \$10 and includes breakfast buffet, handouts and speaker.

First Saturday Devotion: May is the month for mothers. Would you like to worship Jesus and honor our Blessed Mother? Come to St. John’s Saturday, May 3rd for Mass at 8:00 am followed by video teaching, rosary and confessions. There will be a children’s procession with fresh flowers and a crowning of Mary.

A Family Perspective: Because family relationships are imprinted in our hearts, today’s gospel reminds us our loved ones “always remain with you.” Even death and distance cannot erase this presence. We only need to pause and remember, and our loved one is present to us again. It is a different presence, but a REAL presence.

Daily Readings for This Week	
Readings for the Week of April 27, 2008	
Monday:	Acts 16:11-15/Jn 15:26-16:4a
Tuesday:	Acts 16:22-34/Jn 16:5-11
Wednesday:	Acts 17:15, 22-18:1/Jn 16:12-15
Thursday:	(Easter Weekday) Acts 18:1-8/Jn 16:16-20
Friday:	Acts 18:9-18/Jn 16:20-23
Saturday:	1 Cor 15:1-8/Jn 14:6-14

WELCOME to our parish community! We are happy to have you here with us. A *special welcome* to any guests who may be visiting. May your visit be blessed.

Mass Intentions

Monday, April 28

8:00 AM Communion Service

Tuesday, April 29

8:00 AM James Auer
Dr. H.C. Brown

Wednesday, April 30

9:15 AM School Liturgy at St. John’s

Thursday, May 1

8:00 AM Marsha Shook

Friday, May 2

8:00 AM Richard Schweitzer

Saturday, May 3

4:30 PM Thomas Batt

Sunday, May 4

8:00 AM John Newton
James Harley
9:30 AM Richard Kohout
11:30 AM For All Young People

Events For This Week

Monday, April 28

Charismatic Prayer Group	7:00 pm PMC
SVDP	7:00 pm PMC

Tuesday, April 29

School Finance Meeting	7:00 pm School
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Wednesday, April 30

Shep of Christ Prayer Group	6:00 pm Church
Youth Choir	6:00 pm Chapel
Youth Group	7:00 pm PMC
Stewardship Committee	7:00 pm PMC
Choir Practice	7:30 pm Church

Thursday, May 1

Cantor Rehearsal	5:00 pm Church
School Council	7:00 pm Chapel

Friday, May 2

Catholic Charities Mtg	11:00 am PMC
Spanish Prayer Group	7:00 pm Chapel

Saturday, May 3

Geranium Pick-up	8:00 am to 1:00 pm Arabella Parking Lot
Lector Training	9:00 am Church

Sunday, May 4

Celebrate the Word	9:30 am School
Reception for Jason Kahle	10:30 am PMC
RCIA	10:30 am PMC
Graduation Mass	11:30 pm Church
Graduate Reception	12:30 pm PMC